

REMARKS

In the office action mailed January 19, 2006, claims 1-48 were pending. Claims 4, 22, and 35-48 were withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention, and claims 14-17 and 30-34 were objected to but indicated to be allowable if amended into independent form including the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1-3, 5-13, 18-21 and 23-29 stand rejected. In this response, claims 1, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20, 23, and 31 have been amended, and claims 11-12, 14, 19, 28-30 and 35-48 have been cancelled without prejudice and to expedite prosecution of the present application to a notice of allowance. Reconsideration of the present application as amended and including claims 1-10, 13, 15-18, 20-27 and 31-34 is respectfully requested.

A petition to change the order of inventors has been filed in this case on or about January 19, 2006. Action on the same along with the next communication from the Patent Office is respectfully requested.

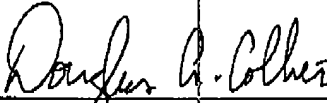
Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 14 and any intervening claims 11 and 12 in original form, and is allowable as indicated in the office action. Claims 11, 12 and 14 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 13 and 15 have been amended to depend from claim 1 in view of the cancellation of claims from which each originally depended. Claim 17 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Claim 18 has been amended to include the subject matter of original claim 30 and any intervening claims in original form, and is allowable as indicated in the office action. Claims 20 and 31 have been amended to depend from claim 18 in view of the cancellation of the claims from which each originally depended. Claim 23 has been amended for consistency with the amendments to claim 18.

Claims 19 and 35 have been cancelled in view of the amendments to claim 18 to maintain consistency and without prejudice to pursuit in a continuing application. Claims 36-48 have been cancelled as being directed to a non-elected invention and without prejudice to pursuit in a continuing application.

Reconsideration of the present application as amended and including claims 1-10, 13, 15-18, 20-27 and 31-34 is respectfully requested. The Examiner is welcomed to contact the undersigned to resolve any outstanding issues with respect to the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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